MED. LIBRARY

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Annual Report

AS TO THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS

for the Year 1925,

BY

H. M. SPEIRS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

DISS:
PRINTED BY THE DISS PUBLISHING CO. LTD.,
MERE STREET.

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the

DISS URBAN COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present my **Twenty-first Report** as your Medical Officer of Health.

SURVEY REPORT, 1925, including Annual Report.

Urban District of Diss. — — County of Norfolk.

Area (in acres) 3,628 (including water).

Population: *(a)* Census, 1921. ... ... 3,513.

(b) Estimated, 1925. ... 3,518.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921. ... 934.

Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 1921 912.

Rateable Value and Sum represented by a Penny Rate:

Rateable Value £15,705

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £50 12s. 1d.

Ambulance Facilities: *(a)* For infectious cases, nil; *(b)* For non-infectious and accident cases, Voluntary Motor Ambulance.

Clinics and Treatment Centres: Maternity and Child Welfare (Weighing and Advisory Centre held at Church Hall in charge of District Nurse).

Professional Nursing in the Home: General Nursing by the District Nurse.

BIRTHS.

Legitimate—26 Males, 18 Females, total 44.

Illegitimate—2 „ 4 „ „ 6.

Gross total—28 „ 22 „ „ 50.

Birth Rate 14.2. That for England and Wales 18.3.

DEATHS.

Infant Mortality 6. Rate 140. (England and Wales 75.)

Deaths from all causes—Men 20, Women 28 ; total 48.

Rate 12. (That for England and Wales 12.2.

Causes of Death at all Ages.

Causes of Death At all Ages.	1925.	
	Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	20	28
Influenza	1	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	
Other tuberculous diseases ...	1	1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	2	5
Rheumatic fever		1
Diabetes		1
Cerebral hemorrhage, &c. ...	1	4
Heart disease	2	8
Arterio-sclerosis	2	1
Bronchitis	1	
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1	
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	2	
Appendicitis and typhlitis ...		1
Acute and chronic nephritis ...		1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	1	2
Other deaths from violence ...	1	
Other defined diseases ...	3	2

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—H. M. SPEIRS, M.D.

Deputy—GUY BEAUCHAMP, M.B., A.B.

Sanitary Inspector—GEORGE HANDEL JONES (Part Time Officer). Other Public Offices held by him :—Collector of Rates and Taxes.

NURSE CAMPBELL.

RAINFALL IN 1925,

at The Cedars, Diss, in the county of Norfolk.

Rain Gauge. { Diameter of Funnel 5in.
Height of Top { Above Ground 1ft. 8in.
Above Sea Level 108ft.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		Number of Days with .01 in. or more	Number of Days with .04 in. or more
	Inches.	Inches.	Date.		
JANUARY ...	.89	.25	1	11	6
FEBRUARY..	1.99	.40	5	18	12
MARCH	1.56	.20	20	18	14
APRIL.....	2.59	.50	8	17	12
MAY	1.89	.41	23	18	15
JUNE	.42	.18	24	7	5
JULY	1.32	.38	27	9	9
AUGUST.....	2.69	.55	24	16	12
SEPTEMBER	2.74	.48	20	20	12
OCTOBER ...	2.01	.61	19	10	9
NOVEMBER.	2.66	.44	8	15	13
DECEMBER.	1.72	.60	23	10	8
TOTAL ...	22.48			169	127

WATER SUPPLY.

MONTHLY PUMPING RECORDS, 1925.

Month.	Quantity of Water Pumped.	Average Daily Consumption.
1925.	Gallons.	Gallons.
January...	1,243,000	40,096
February	1,215,500	43,410
March	1,406,000	45,354
April	1,299,000	43,300
May	1,473,500	47,532
June	2,095,000	69,833
July	2,507,500	80,887
August	1,563,500	50,435
September	1,593,000	53,100
October	1,631,500	52,629
November	1,542,500	51,416
December	1,717,000	55,387
Total for Year...	19,287,000	633,379
Average per Month...	1,607,250	52,781

INFANT WELFARE REPORT, 1925.

Nurse Campbell reports as follows:—

Thirty-three new infants were visited during the year, 149 visits being paid to these infants, while 447 visits have been paid to children over one year and under school age.

The infants seem well cared for generally, and the mothers apparently appreciate the monthly visits and advice given.

Several mothers attend the Weighing Centre regularly.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever .... 1.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS, ETC.

The List of Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, and Local Regulations relating to the public health, in force in the District, with the dates at which the provisions became operative.

1. Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885, 6th September, 1922.
2. Byelaws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures used for human habitation, 31st October, 1922.
3. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (53 and 64 Vict. c. 59), Part 3, 2nd July, 1924.

4. Byelaws with respect to New Streets and Buildings, 6th August, 1924.

5. Byelaws with respect to Slaughter-houses, 22nd January, 1925.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

CONVERSION OF PRIVIES, YEAR 1925.

Fixed to Removable Receptacles	11
Fixed to Fresh Water W.C.'s	19
Total number of Conversions during the year	30
Number of privy-vault type closets abolished during the year	9
Number of Closets Removable Receptacles converted to Fresh Water W.C.'s	10

Number of Closets of each type remaining at the end of the year 1925.

Number of Privy-vault Closets fixed type	188
Number of Pail Closets : Removable Receptacles...	168
Number of Fresh Water W.C.'s	342
Number of Waste Water W.C.'s	84
Total number of Water Closets connected to the sewers (both types)	426
Total number of Water Closets connected to the sewers (both types) including Houses, Factories, and Schools in the district	462

NOTE.—There are of the 188 existing privy-vault type closets, 152 which it is not possible to connect to the sewers, this number being scattered in the country area of the district, i.e., Farms and Cottages.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging work is done by a Contractor, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and includes the weekly collection of the contents of Pail Closets and Galvanised Sanitary Dustbins.

Trade refuse may be removed by private arrangement with the Contractor.

The Contract is for the term of three years dated from the 1st October, 1925, and expires 30th September, 1928.

Year 1925.		Loads Removed.
Number of Closet Pails emptied weekly...	168	156
Number of Dustbins emptied weekly ...	507	508
Number of Privy-vault Closets (fixed type) emptied	110	126½
Number of Dustbins (fixed type) emptied	43	57¾
Number of Cesspools emptied	9	17

Summary 1925.

Total number of Loads removed	Excreta	299½
" " " "	Dry Refuse	565¾
	Total	865¼

NOTE.—The Scavenging of the District by systematic weekly Collection of the contents of the Dustbins, and of Pail Closets, and the emptying of Privy-vault Closets and Dustbins of the fixed type was first undertaken 1st October, 1919. The progress of the work is as follows, viz.:

Year 1920.	Number of moveable Ashbins, with proper covers, emptied weekly	200
Year 1925.	" "	508

Tabular summary of the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year 1925, under Article 19 (12) of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1922.

(a) The number and nature of inspections made during the year .... Total No. 878.

SUMMARY.

Housing	152
General Inspections, Scavenging	75
Drainage	30
Market	130
Factories and Workshops	58
Infectious Diseases	18
Slaughterhouses	347
Dairies and Cowsheds	18
Vans, used for human habitation	43
Inspections in company with Medical Officer of Health	5
Inspections in company with the Chairman and Members of the General Purposes Committee of the Council	2
Total	878

(b) Number of Notices served during the year.

Statutory Notices	1
Informal Notices	1
Ditto, ditto complied with	1

NUISANCES.

Complaints received 8. Complaints investigated 8.

Nuisances found on Inspection	13
" " by Complaint	8
Total	21
Statutory Notices served for Abatement	1
Informal Notices served for Abatement	1
Number of Nuisances Abated in consequence of informal action of Sanitary Inspector	19
Total	21

SUMMARY, 1925.

Nuisances : Unabated at 1st January, 1925...	Nil	Nuisances : No. abated	21
No. found on Inspection	13	No. unabated at 1st January, 1926	Nil
No. found on Complaint	8		
	21		21

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The following summary gives particulars of the use of Gas and Electricity in this District for various purposes in substitution of coal.

Summary.

(*a*) Cooking Purposes:

1. Number of Gas Stoves and Grillers in use in the district 450
2. Number of Electric Cookers in use in the district .... Nil

(*b*) Heating and Warming Purposes:

1. Number of Gas Fires for heating rooms and offices in use in the district 50
2. Number of Electric Heaters in use for warming rooms and offices in the district 25

Tents, Vans, Sheds, and Similar Structures used for Human Habitation.

Bye-laws.—Provisions became operative 31st October, 1922.

Number of Vans used for human habitation inspected during the year 43

Number found on inspection to be in all respects in a reasonably satisfactory condition 43

(VI.) General and Miscellaneous:

40 occupiers have been advised as to keeping W.C.'s and Drains adequately flushed.

50 houses have been provided with Sanitary Dustbins (by the Owner) for weekly collection by the Scavenger.

6 new flushing cisterns have been provided to W.C.'s.

1 well drinking water has been thoroughly cleaned out.

1 rain-water cistern has been thoroughly cleaned out.

9 houses with pail-closets have now been converted to fresh-water closets connected to the sewer.

10 new drains have been constructed for the more efficient drainage of houses and premises.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1295.

Number of New Houses erected during the year ..... Nil

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection.—(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 94

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 35

(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .... Nil

(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 75

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority Officer 70

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(*a*) By Owners 1

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners..... Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to making Closing Orders .... Nil

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made .... Nil

(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit 2

(4) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect to which Demolition Orders were made 6

(5) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .... Nil

D. (*a*) Statutory Proceedings under Housing and Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909. Section 17 (4).

On the 14th January, 1925, Application was made to the Court in 2 cases for an Order to quit Dwelling-houses in respect to which a Closing Order was made. The cases were twice adjourned, viz., 11th March and 10th June, the later date an Order being made for possession in each case. The Orders were eventually complied with.

(*b*) Statutory Proceedings under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919. Section 32.

On the 14th January, 1925, Proceedings at Court were taken against a person who occupied a house (void) in respect of which a Closing Order was in force, this case was adjourned by the Justices to the Court held 11th February, 1925. The case was further mentioned at the Court held 11th February, 1925, when, with the sanction of the Justices, the defendant having vacated the premises, the case was withdrawn, the costs being remitted by the Court.

The Sanitary Inspector appeared upon behalf of the Local Authority at each hearing of the afore-mentioned cases.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*) Milk.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops:

Number of Registered Retailers of Milk	11
Number of Registered Producers of Milk	2
Total	13

One Cowshed has been structurally repaired, giving improved lighting, drainage, and ventilation.

Number of Cowsheds improved structurally by action taken under the Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885, and adopted 6th September, 1922, in force in the District..... 6

(*b*) MEAT.

347 visits have been made to Slaughterhouses during times of slaughter and after slaughter.

130 visits have been made to the public market held weekly in the open Market Place, particular attention being given to the Meat Stalls.

(1) Meat Inspection.—The Sanitary Inspector, as far as possible, is present at all times of slaughter at the registered Slaughterhouses, there being fixed days for slaughtering throughout the year, and the Slaughterhouses being within easy distances, the work of inspection is thereby facilitated. This being a country market town a number of animals are sent in from farms situate in the adjoining district for slaughter, especially when animals show signs of not being in proper health and feed.

I herewith give particulars of the work in connection with Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924; disease in meat and arrangements for the disposal of meat seized as unfit for food.

INSPECTIONS, 1925. - CARCASES INSPECTED AND EXAMINED.

Month	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Lambs		Total
April	23	20	38	—	1	.....	82
May	27	31	57	—	1	.....	116
June	30	25	55	1	1	.....	112
July	27	28	54	2	7	.....	118
Aug.	30	30	59	—	—	.....	119
Sept.	41	33	88	—	1	.....	163
Oct.	30	28	69	—	1	.....	128
Nov.	28	29	79	—	—	.....	136
Dec.	43	46	71	1	—	.....	161
Total	279	270	570	4	12		1,135

Meat Seized on Inspection and Surrendered by Butcher.

					Total lbs.
April	Pork 75 lbs.	2 Livers, 24 lbs.	.....	.....	99
May	3 Livers, 8 lbs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
June	Pork 292 lbs.	Lamb 43 lbs.	3 Livers, 23 lbs....		358
July	Pork 140 lbs.	Mutton 56 lbs.	Veal 77 lbs.		
	Lamb 66 lbs.	1 Liver, 7 lbs.	.....	.....	346
Aug.	Nil				
Sept.	Pork 97 lbs.	1 Liver 8 lbs.	.....	.....	106
Oct.	Pork 120 lbs.	1 Liver, 4¼ lbs.	.....	.....	126¼
Nov.	Pork 281 lbs.	2 Livers, 30 lbs.	.....	.....	311
Dec.	Nil				

Total quantity of Seized Meat surrendered and destroyed 1,354¼

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

Pursuant to the above Order a Notice of Intended Slaughter of an animal found to be tuberculosis from the Clerk to the County Council was received 14th December.

The animal was duly slaughtered under veterinary supervision on the 15th December.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered...	4	4	4
Licensed ...	1	—	1
Total	5	4	5

One Slaughterhouse was licensed May, 1925, for the slaughter of pigs only. The license is a yearly one.

The arrangements for the disposal of condemned meat is that the seized meat is conveyed to the Local Gas Works, where it is destroyed in the furnaces under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

One Slaughterhouse has had walls, floor and roof repaired.

One Slaughterhouse has had new drains constructed, new floors constructed, and the roof repaired.

One Statutory Notice was served requiring repairs.

OTHER FOODS.

Bakehouses and other Premises where foods are prepared, stored, manufactured, or exposed for sale.

Fishmongers.

Fish and Chip-Potato Fryers.

Confectioners and Caterers (including Ice Cream Vendors).

Meat Purveyors (home-killed and imported).

The Market held weekly.

Visits are made periodically to these premises.

All the Bakehouses in the district are frequently visited, and are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

There is one Underground Bakehouse in the district.

Six Bakehouses have been limewashed to the requirements of your Sanitary Inspector.

On the 17th July your Inspector examined a consignment of 14 boxes of Haddock consigned to a Fish Salesman in the Market; these were seized, being unfit for food, and surrendered by the Salesman and destroyed.

DISINFECTION AND CLEANSING.

Disinfection, following cases of infectious disease and cases of prolonged illness, has been carried out on 9 occasions.

Disinfection after infectious disease	6
Disinfection after prolonged illness	3
Number of Rooms disinfected	11
Number of Cottages thoroughly cleansed for occupation ...	2
Premises Cleansed of Refuse Accumulations.....	3

A "Thresh" Emergency Disinfector is kept for disinfecting purposes when such is necessary.

SPECIAL REPORTS. YEAR 1925.

1. Public Health (Meat), Regulations, 1924.

SPECIAL REPORT. Recent Meat Regulations.—

Sanitary Inspector's Report to Council, dated 23rd June, 1925.

This Report was with reference to a Meeting held 19th June, 1925, at the Shirehouse, Norwich, convened by Dr.

Nash, County M.O.H., at which your Sanitary Inspector was in attendance, and which Dr. Hancock, of the Ministry of Health attended and dealt with the Public Health (Meat), Regulations, 1925.

2. Conference of Local Authorities, Builders, and Operatives, at the Guildhall, Norwich.

SPECIAL REPORT.—Sanitary Inspector's Report to Council, dated 25th June, 1925.

This Report dealt with the proceedings of a Conference summoned by the Lord Mayor of Norwich at which an invitation was given to this Local Authority to nominate representatives. The Sanitary Inspector was the nominee of this Authority, and attended the Conference on the 24th June, 1925.

The Conference dealt with Circular 520A of the Ministry of Health.

The Lord Mayor stated that the Conference was called at the request of the Building Industry Committee.

I beg to thank my Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Handel Jones, for his valuable and tactful help throughout the past year; Mr. Cooper for his summary of the Water Supply; Nurse Campbell for her work in connection with the Infant Welfare Centre; and you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your unvarying courtesy and help to me in my work.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. M. SPEIRS.